

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES ON THE BATTLE FOR HONG KONG

(Continued From Page 1)

"The full force of the enemy's initial attack on the island fell on this battalion and they fought gallantly until they had suffered heavy casualties (100 men) of the British officers and men. The enemy's Indian and Chinese troops were repulsed."

Our Casualties

Major-General Malby's estimate of the enemy's casualties was that they had suffered heavy casualties (100 men) of the British officers and men. The enemy's Indian and Chinese troops were repulsed."

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New Plan

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Not Practised

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been completed on the mainland and troops there had had little or no practice with mortars when the battle began."

Wrong Information

"The 2nd Battalion 14th Punjab Regiment had had one demonstration of three-inch mortar and no preliminary shooting at all with two-inch mortars."

"So far as the Japanese forces were concerned, the Far East Combined Bureau at Singapore indicated that an attack was likely by one division, with another in reserve."

Major-General Malby adds, however, "This I believe to be incorrect as a Japanese staff officer informed me after the capitulation that two divisions had been deployed on the island and a third held in reserve."

Unusual shipping was noted for three weeks before the attack, but its significance was not clear, while enemy aircraft movements, as far as they were known, showed no abnormal activity."

Ambassadorial cables from Tokyo did not indicate immediate pending hostilities."

The available information led to these conclusions: Japanese nightwork was poor, they preferred stereotyped methods and fixed plans, their light automatics were less numerous and up-to-date than ours."

Listeners over ZBW are reminded that from 9.11 to 9.55 p.m. this evening they will hear the reading of despatches from Hong Kong by Major-General Malby, GOC Hong Kong at the time of the Japanese attack on the Colony."

This change replaces the original Brains Trust programme."

The British, their "Combined Operations" were thorough and used boats and equipment, their Air Force was below first-class European standards, and they employed fifth columnists."

The Japanese attack opened at 8 a.m. local time, when planes attacked Kai Tak Aerodrome and Shamshui Barracks. Later they dropped subversive pamphlets, addressed mainly to Indian troops."

The Japanese ground forces moved forward steadily and did not delay their progress during the bright moonlight night. The British forces began to fall back and carry out demolitions."

The Canadian reinforcements crossed to the mainland from Hong Kong Island. But on Dec. 16, Major-General Malby ordered the evacuation of Kai Tak Aerodrome, and the following day the withdrawal from the mainland under cover of darkness, except for the 5th Battalion 7th Rajput Regiment."

Air raids and shelling of Hong Kong Island was maintained by the Japanese, who also attempted landings on some of the smaller surrounding islands."

Fifth column activities developed in Kowloon and later on Hong Kong Island itself."

On Dec. 13, the last British troops, the 5th Battalion 7th Rajput Regiment, were withdrawn from the mainland."

Truce Offer

Units of the Royal Navy assisted the withdrawal from the mainland. "One company of the 5th Battalion 7th Rajput Regiment was ordered to cover the withdrawal of the remainder and then themselves to embark in the last flights."

"Daylight had arrived by then, but they accomplished the evacuation without casualties, covered by artillery fire from various island positions."

"It was not until 9.20 a.m. that the last contingent of the 5th Battalion 7th Rajput Regiment from the mainland reached Aberdeen. The whole battalion was collected in the Tytan Gap area by noon and was given 24 hours to rest and re-equip before taking over the northeast sector from the 2nd Royal Scots."

The 2nd Battalion 14th Punjab Regiment took over the northwest sector."

"At 9.00 a.m., Dec. 13, a launch bearing a flag of truce was seen to put off from Kowloon. It arrived at Victoria Pier with a staff officer of the General Commanding the Japanese forces (Lieutenant General Sakai) bearing a letter addressed to the Governor."

"The letter demanded the surrender of the colony and threatened severe artillery fire and aerial bombardment in the event of a refusal."

"The demand was tantamount to unconditional surrender and was rejected categorically."

"During the morning, the Japanese were observed to be collecting launches in Kowloon Bay and concentrating them at Bailey's Shipyard."

"During the day, enemy artillery fire increased in intensity, one 9.2 gun at Mount Davis was knocked out by a direct hit and at dusk Belcher's Fort was heavily shelled and set on fire. Other serious fires were started at West Point and Kennedy Town."

"Fifth columnists had been active during the day, and a large number of Army transport drivers deserted, some of them taking their lorries with them."

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"The police dealt with these in due course."

"The civilian population showed signs of strain and the food queues in some districts became disorderly. The question of rice distribution presented a grave problem in the overcrowded quarters."

"At 2.00 p.m., Dec. 14, great anxiety was caused by the speed of the fires at Belcher's and Kennedy Town. The civil fire brigades had been fighting the fires for many hours and asked for military assistance."

"Parties were accordingly sent and some houses blown down. Fires were under control by midday."

"The general impression of Japanese artillery fire was that their gunners were extremely accurate on targets which were obviously well-known from our time dispositions and under direct observation, but inaccurate in picking up new targets, needing predicted fire in spite of abundant air reconnaissance."

"About 30 per cent of the ammunition burst ineffectively, and the heavier batteries, at times 50 per cent, failed to explode."

Civilians Shaky

Major-General Malby's despatch continues: "The morale of the civilian population remained shaky, chiefly due to rice distribution difficulties."

"The Chungking Government representatives had been most helpful in assisting in the maintenance of order."

"News was received from the Chinese General Staff of the advance of Chinese forces towards Hong Kong. However, effective assistance could not be available until early January."

"In the afternoon of Dec. 16, 17, enemy planes bombed Mount Davis, which was also heavily and accurately shelled. An unexploded nine-inch shell entered the fortress plotting room and damaged the instruments."

"By the end of the day, more than half of the pill-boxes along the north shore from Lyemun to Bowringham had been knocked out."

"On Dec. 16, two enemy planes were brought down and the civilian morale improved."

"The arrest this day of a prominent Chinese merchant for defeatist talk was expected to have a salutary effect—which, in fact, it did."

Second Offer

"Fifth columnists were still active. Their methods consisted of shining lights to bring shell fire to bear on concentrations of transport, etc., spreading false rumours, inducing desertions from the 'essential services' and inciting to riot."

"They also again attacked the isolated AA searchlight at Shaukwan."

"During the hours of darkness and early hours of Dec. 17, mortar fire from Kowloon Peninsula continued on to the north shore pill-boxes."

"A force of 14 Japanese Army light bombers made two separate attacks at about 9.30 a.m. on Dec. 17, followed by a short but relatively severe artillery and mortar bombardment on the Central District."

"Shortly afterwards, two Japanese launches, flying a white flag, crossed the harbour. The delegation brought written proposals for surrender, similar to those of Dec. 13. It was thought that the Japanese supposed our morale to be shaken."

"The envoys appeared genuinely surprised and disconcerted when the proposals were again summarily rejected. They left with the hint that future bombardments might not be so discriminate."

"The Japanese delegation announced on arrival that there would be no hostilities until 4 p.m., by which time they expected a reply. Advantage was taken of this very welcome lull to repair communications, etc."

Oil Tanks Alight

"The morale of the civilian population continued to improve and the rice distribution was getting better."

"On Dec. 17, shelling on the north-east sector was particularly heavy and lines were being constantly cut and repaired. At about 8 p.m., many pill-boxes were still out of touch."

"At about 9 a.m. the same day, Aberdeen came under shell fire from seawards and the Industrial School, headquarters of the Aberdeen portion of the Royal Naval Dockyard, was hit."

"At 10 a.m. on Dec. 18, an air raid of considerable intensity developed in the Central District, Victoria. The Anglo-Persian Company's petrol and oil tanks at North Point were set on fire and subsequently shelled at intervals throughout the day."

"The attack seemed to be directed particularly against the Government offices, where the Secretariat was hit and many casualties were caused in the neighbourhood."

"During the early afternoon, Causeway Bay area was very heavily shelled, the water front from that place to Lyemun now becoming a tangle of fallen tramwires and standards and almost impassable for vehicles and despatch riders."

"Further air raids occurred from 3 p.m. onwards and the Salwan artillery observation post was dive-bombed and also shelled."

The Crossing

"At 7.30 p.m., a report was received that the Salwan AA position and an old redoubt had been under heavy shell fire for half an hour, that the whole fort was badly damaged and that the structure would not stand up to further shelling."

"At about 9.30 p.m., very lights were seen going up from North Point and Lyemun and shelling and machine-gun fire

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at their Sales Rooms, Pedder
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Yocks, Footmuffs, Hoods,
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Discs, White Belts, Tooth
Soap, White Waist Belts,
Blackening Brushes with and
without Dander, Stakehead
Boots, Red Covers, marked
and unmarked, Hammocks
and Hook and Eyes.

and

A LARGE QUANTITY OF
WORK CLOTHING AND
USED GEAR.

consisting of: Serge Jackets
and Jumpers, Overalls,
Singlets, Shirts, Trousers,
Vests, Waist Belts, and Cotton
Material Blankets, Boots,
Rags, Cooking Utensils,
Crochery, Table Linen, Cut
lery and Library Books etc.

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For Conditions of Sale, Cata-
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Minister of Transport, under
Section 47 of the Merchant
Shipping Act, 1894, in respect
of the Tug "ROCKCLIFFE" of
Hong Kong Registry Official
Number 180574 Gross tonnage
233.49 tons Register tonnage
Nil tons, heretofore owned by
us, for permission to change her
name to "TAIKOO CHEONG" and
to have her registered in the
new name at the Port of
Hong Kong as owned by THE
TAIKOO DOCKYARD & EN-
GINEERING COMPANY OF
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Any objection to the proposed
change of name must be sent
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Hong Kong within SEVEN days
from the appearance of this
advertisement.

Dated at HONG KONG the
24th day of January, 1948, THE
TAIKOO DOCKYARD & EN-
GINEERING COMPANY OF
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Building, Basement

A LARGE QUANTITY OF
SURPLUS STORES, WIRE,
LESS TRANSMITTING SETS
AND SPARES, FAST MOTOR
BOAT AND SMALL CRAFTS

Located at H. M. Naval Dock-
yard, Hong Kong, H. M.
Naval Yard, Kowloon and
Naval Store Section, Tai
Koo Sugar Refinery, Quarry
Bay, Hong Kong.

Full Particulars and Terms
of Sale as per advertisement
published on the 27th, 28th and
29th January, 1948.

LAMMERT BROS.
Auctioneers.

FOR SALE

TENDERS are invited for the
purchase and re-
moval of 31 No.
Sectional Timber
Barrack Huts and
5 No. Sectional
Timber Warehouse
Huts as they lie
erected at R.N. Air
Station, Kai Tak
(H.M.S. FLYCAT-
CHERY).

TENDERS will be accepted for
individual huts.

APPLICATIONS for particu-
lars and Form of
Tender should be
made IN WRITING
to the Superintend-
ing Civil Engineer,
H.M. Dockyard,
Hong Kong not later
than MONDAY 2nd
FEBRUARY, 1948.

TENDERS will be required to
be delivered at or
before 12.00 noon
on MONDAY, 9th
FEBRUARY, 1948.

HONGKONG AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

URGENT NOTICE

In order to serve notice of the Annual General
Meeting of the Association to be held at an early
date, will all prewar members desirous of re-
suming membership please send a chit notifying
their name, address and motor car or cycle re-
gistration number to:-

Mr. T. E. Jackson,
Assistant Director of Marine,
Harbour Office.

Note-The new subscription fees will be decided
at the Annual General Meeting of
Members.

Motorists wishing to join the Association may
obtain a form from any member of the Interim
Committee or from the address above.

T. E. JACKSON.

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME
COURT OF
HONG KONG

PROBATE JURISDICTION.

IN THE GOODS of ED-
WARD NISSIM late of
No. 165 Meyer Road
Singapore formerly of 20
Route Pichon, Shanghai,
in the Republic of China,
merchant, deceased

NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN that the Court has by
virtue of Section 58 of the Pro-
bates Ordinance, 1897, made an
Order limiting the time for
creditors and others to send in
their claims against the above
estate to the 25th February,
1948.

All creditors and others are
accordingly hereby required to
send their claims to the under-
signed on or before that date.

Dated the 26th day of Janu-
ary, 1948.

DEACONS,
Solicitors for the
Executors
Princo's Building,
Hongkong

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME
COURT OF
HONG KONG

PROBATE JURISDICTION

IN THE GOODS of KEN-
NETH de WOLFE WAT-
SON late of The Hongkong
& Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.
Kowloon in the Colony of
Hongkong, Foreman Joiner,
deceased

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Princo's Building,
Hongkong

COSMO CLUB.

CHINA NEW YEARS DANCE
Saturday, 7th, February, 1948.

Will Members who have not
already done so kindly send
application for Tickets to the
Secretary as soon as possible.

THE COMMITTEE.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER

BOAC and Hongkong Airways
announce that, beginning Sun-
day, February 1, 1948, a new
public telephone service to the
companies' Area Offices will
come into operation.

From that date the telephone
number for the two Area Offices
will be 31164 (three lines) with
extensions linking both BOAC
and Hongkong Airways.

Third Cold Wave Hits America

Chicago, Jan. 29.
The third cold wave in a week chilled United
States residents today from the Rocky Moun-
tains to the Atlantic Coast and dealt a sting-
ing blow to automobile and other industrial
production in cities in the Mid-west, South and
East.
However, forecasters predicted a flow of compara-
tively warm air from the Pacific would break
the grip of cold almost everywhere by the
week-end.

The death toll from the weather
in the East, South and Mid-west
was nearly 100.
Thousands of workers were idle
because of a fuel shortage.

The succession of three cold waves
this month—the most severe in years
in many areas—brought orders for
the industrial curtailment of gas sup-
plies.

No estimate was available as to
the number made idle by the closing
down of plants and factories to con-
serve fuel. However, in the Detroit
area alone an estimated 200,000
workers were made jobless when
the Michigan Consolidated Gas Com-
pany suspended all gas supplies to
industrial users. The order, to be in
effect until next Tuesday, virtually
halted auto production in the motor
city.

Thermometer Breaks

A blizzard swept New Mexico and
numbing cold spread over Texas
from the Panhandle to the lower Rio
Grande Valley. Snowfalls in Ten-
nessee measured four to 16 inches
and ice in Arkansas and other parts
of the South forced the closing of
schools, impeded traffic and disrupted
communications.

The lowest temperature of the
winter was recorded at Alamosa,
Colorado, where an alcohol thermo-
meter registered 50 below zero. The
official mercury thermometer froze and
broke at around 40 below.

Major developments in the cold
wave:

A total of 200,000 Detroit workers
at General Motors, Chrysler, Ford
and scores of smaller industries were
made idle when the Michigan Con-
solidated Gas Company cut off fuel
supplies to industrial plants for at
least a week.

Steel production was affected with
approximately 15,000 workers idle in

Floods, Landslides In Italy

Rome, Jan. 28.
Floods and landslides with torrential rains were
reported from several parts of Italy tonight.

Venice is flooded by an un-
usually high tide caused by strong
winds, and householders were
forced to take refuge on upper
floors.

Torrential rains caused a land-
slide which blocked the Via
Aurelia one of the main roads out
of Rome. The main railway line

NOTICE

ROYAL SANITARY
INSTITUTE
(HONG KONG
BRANCH)

The examination for Sanitary
Inspectors under the Hong Kong
Examination Board of the Royal
Sanitary Institute will be held
on the 18th February, 1948.

An entry fee of \$75 will be
charged for this examination.

Application forms for entry
to the above examination may
be obtained from the Hon.
Secretary, Room 109, H.K. &
Shai Bank Building.

The application list will close
on the 9th February.

J. I. BARNES,
Hon. Secretary.

Royal Sanitary Institute
(Hong Kong Branch).

COLONY OPEN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Entries are invited for an open
tournament for the chess cham-
pionship of the Colony for 1948.
The tournament is open to all re-
sident players.

Should the number of entries
exceed six, the Committee re-
serves the right to order all
competitors to play in qualifying
rounds. Entries accompanied by
the entrance fee of \$10.00
should be addressed to the Hon.
Treasurer, Room 308, Princo's
Bldg., (Tel. 32227). Entries close
at noon/Saturday 14th February
1948.

R. C. GARDNER
Hon. Secretary

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B

SHOWING TO-DAY **QUEEN'S** TO-DAY
SPECIAL TIMES: 2.30, 5.00, 7.15 & 9.30 P.M.

four great stars meet... and turn "THE SEA OF GRASS" into a sea of HUMAN EMOTIONS!

SPENCER TRACY *Rugged, ruthless! Gambler in hearts!*

KATHARINE HEPBURN *Yearning for love! Lusty schemer!*

ROBERT WALKER *Gambler in hearts!*

MELVYN DOUGLAS *Lusty schemer!*

M-G-M'S SPECTACULAR DRAMATIZATION

THE SEA OF GRASS

SUNDAY MORNING AT 11.30 A.M.

"THEY WERE EXPENDABLE"

Robert Montgomery, Dennis Hopper, John Wayne

An MGM Picture at Reduced Prices!

SHOWING **KING'S** AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M.

ALL-STAR CAST! For a... **THE BOY FROM STALINGRAD**

in the M-G-M manner!

WALTER PIGEON • JOSE HUNTER • RODDY McDOWALL • JANE POWELL • ILONA MASSEY • XAVIER BUGAY

Screen Play by EDDIE LIDNART • Original Story by WILLIAM KOTHE • Directed by GEORGE SIDNEY

Produced by JOE PASTERNAK

KING'S THEATRE ANNOUNCES AN UNUSUAL PROGRAMME

LATEST PATHE NEWSREELS

DOCUMENTARIES

LOOKING BACK ON 1947.

JAPANESE WAR CRIMES TRIAL

HERE IS THE GOLD COAST COLOUR (in TECHICOLOUR) a dramatic approach to the subject of Colour.

DATES: Saturday, Jan. 31st, Sunday, Feb. 1st.

TIMES: MORNINGS 10.30, 11.45, 1 p.m.

ADMISSION SIXTY CENTS

By arrangement with: Public Relations Officer and International Films Ltd.

WEEKLY CHINA MAIL

Price 50 cents

CONTAINING ALL THE LOCAL NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM THE "CHINA MAIL" & "SUNDAY HERALD."

ON SALE EVERY THURSDAY

VIETNAM ATTACK WARNING

Major Offensive In South Promised

Forces Stronger Than Year Ago

Bangkok, Jan. 29. Dr. Pham Ngoc Thach, Ho Chi-minh's Vice-Premier and considered No. 3 man of the Vietnam hierarchy, told the United Press today that Vietnamese troops "are stronger now than at the beginning of the more than year-long war in Indo-China."

The next major offensive by Nationalist troops would be in the South, he said, with a possible large-scale attack on Saigon.

British Reds Ape Moscow

LONDON, JAN. 29. THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY EXECUTIVE DECLARED IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY THAT THE MARSHALL PLAN IS A PLAN TO BUILD A WESTERN ANTI-SOVIET BLOCK AROUND THE CENTRAL PIVOT OF WESTERN GERMAN AS ITS INDUSTRIAL WAR BASE AND TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE WAR AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION AND THE NEW DEMOCRACIES IN EUROPE.

"It is a plan to subordinate the peoples and resources of the West in European countries to United States control," the statement said.

"The plan is growing among the people as the true meaning of the Marshall Plan begins to be understood. This is especially the case in the great shipbuilding areas of the country, where the cut in steel allocation and shipyard closures are the result of the desire of the Government to fall in line with American wishes," the statement said.

Singapore, Jan. 28. The Indonesian News Agency said today that Republican police had killed nine pirates who had attacked Singapore, on Sumatra. Three were captured. The rest were driven off, the agency said.

COMING TO THE

Lee Theatre

Cary GRANT and Alexis SMITH in **THE DAY AFTER**

MONTY WOOLLEY • GILLY SIMMS • MICHAEL CURTIZ • JANE WYMAN • ARTHUR SCHWARTZ • MARY MARTIN

ONE OF THE TEN BEST!

MAJESTIC

SHOWING TO-DAY SPECIAL TIMES 2.30, 5.00, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

EXTRA! **JOE LOUIS** and **JOE WASCOTT**

SHOWING WITH JAMES STEWART and JANE WYMAN in **"MAGIC TOWN"**

"JANE"

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD VISCOUNT GAMMON, M.L.D.

OH, THAT'S STRAIGHT!

HIM—LYDIA'S OTHER SISTER! NOT HIS LUCKY DAY—HAW!

YOU MIGHT—HAW!—TELL HIM WE'RE NOT IN AS YET! GO OUT, WILL YOU!

WITH PLEASURE!

"An attack on the centre of the city is not unlikely soon," he said. "We are ready and the French have underground members in Saigon armed and ready to go at a signal."

Dr. Thach leaves Bangkok on Sunday for Hanoi. He has just returned from there, where he met Ho Chi-minh at the former's residence in Hanoi. He will meet Ho Chi-minh in New Delhi on his return to Indo-China.

Vietnam Objective

He pointed out that the French had already been made to UN, and no action had yet been taken along the lines of their plan in Indochina.

1. Withdrawal of French troops from Indo-China and... 2. Recognition of Vietnam's independence and unity... 3. Negotiations at which the French and Vietnamese are to meet on equal terms for the settlement of economic and political problems.

Dr. Thach said Vietnam was willing to grant the French economic interests and remain within the French Union, providing the French Union was clearly defined.

"Not Communist"

Dr. Thach is a graduate physician, educated in France and specializing in tuberculosis. He said he would not join the Ho Chi-minh movement, but added that the Defence Minister was a Communist, and other key figures in the Vietnamese Government, including himself, were definitely not Communists.

"The Government is not conducted on Communist, totalitarian lines, and if the Government did not have full support, and did not represent the true nationalistic aims of the people, it could not maintain the war at such sacrifice by virtually all the native population of Indo-China," said Dr. Thach.

Negotiations with ex-Emperor Bao Dai, he added, would be "unimportant" to the terms of any final settlement of Indo-Chinese problems.

Dr. Edwin G. Nourse, Chairman of President Truman's Council of Economic Advisors, said today that the United States can head off an economic depression only by planning ability.

He called upon all persons to make a "positive and equitable contribution" to national planning.

"Only through planning and co-ordination of all interests can we get efficient utilization instead of permitting gigantic wastes which have been the characteristic of our past industrial history with

periodical depressions," Dr. Nourse said.

He described the Employment Act of 1946, which created the Council of Economic Advisors, as a "potentially epoch-making piece of legislation" since its aim is to systematize the conservation of resources without proposing trick remedies.—United Press.

POP

I CAN TELL IF YOU ARE THE FATHER OF

THREE SETS OF TWINS YOU CAN BEHAVE LIKE THAT!

GETTING THE BIRD!

CONVICT WAS ALL-IN

Isle of Wight, Jan. 28. Ernest Joseph Jones, 25, who escaped from Parkhurst Prison, Isle of Wight, on Monday, was captured today.

He was first seen in a boat on the river and afterwards dashed into the woods.

After an hour and a half search the police found him sitting under a tree in an exhausted condition. He offered no resistance.—Reuter.

Britain Closes Bridges

Jerusalem, Jan. 28. THE BRITISH LAST NIGHT CLOSED ALL BRIDGES INTO PALESTINE FROM TRANS-JORDAN EXCEPT THE HEAVILY GUARDED ALLENBY BRIDGE.

The move was designed to tighten control of Holy Land borders.

It followed the crossing into Palestine last week of 175 uniformed, trained, Arab volunteers from Trans-Jordan to participate in the Jewish Arab warfare.

A reliable source said that 3,000 graduates from Syrian training camps, representing four Arab countries, have moved into Palestine to battle the Zionists. The informant estimated that 2,000 more were in training.—Associated Press.

Commissioner For Malaya

London, Jan. 29. The King has appointed Sir Edward Gent to serve as High Commissioner of the Malayan Union when it becomes the Federation of Malaya on Feb. 1.

Sir Edward Gent at present is Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Malayan Union.

Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, retiring Governor-General of Malaya, had an audience on Tuesday of the King.—Associated Press.

Planning The Only Way

Chicago, Jan. 29. Council of Economic Advisors, said today that the United States can head off an economic depression only by planning ability.

He called upon all persons to make a "positive and equitable contribution" to national planning.

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Beggars Preferred Freedom

SHANGHAI, JAN. 29. THE POLICE, PICKING UP BEGGARS FROM THE HEART OF SHANGHAI YESTERDAY TO TRANSPORT TO REFUGEE CAMPS, HAD A MERRY CHASE TO CATCH THE BEGGARS WHO PREFERRED FREEDOM TO POLICE PROTECTION.

One foreign observer said he saw the police take out after one beggar who made a bit for freedom, finally catch him and hold him down, while one policeman kicked him and another beat him with a stick to subdue him enough to haul him off to a refuge haven, some of which have an unwelcome reputation.

Some beggars did not want to be looked after by the city police because they came to Shanghai from the country to celebrate the Chinese New Year and practise the Chinese New Year and practise the Chinese New Year on the line to augment spending money. The police have no way of knowing who is a destitute and who is out for pocket money.

However, the police tactics on the "merry misfits" are of a type that Shanghai has been trying to wipe out for years.—United Press.

FIRE DELAYS FLIGHT

Shrewsbury, England, Jan. 29. An engine fire destroyed a wing today of a long-range R.A.F. Avro II bomber just before it was to leave for Malaya.

The trip was planned to test latest navigation techniques and equipment. It was announced the departure will be delayed for some time.—Associated Press.

STAR Phone 58335
2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.
TO-DAY ONLY

SWAMP WATER
A 20th CENTURY FOX INCORPORATION

STARRING Walter BRENNAN and Anne BAXTER
To-morrow, ONE DAY ONLY
"LIVES OF A BENGAL LANCER"
starring GARY COOPER

DANCE AT THE LIDO DANCING HALL
144-148 Des Voeux Rd. 4th flr Side Entrance
FINE DANCING FLOOR GOOD MUSIC
FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE NEWLY DECORATED BEST SERVICE

Getting the bird!

POP

I CAN TELL IF YOU ARE THE FATHER OF

THREE SETS OF TWINS YOU CAN BEHAVE LIKE THAT!

GETTING THE BIRD!

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I CAN TELL IF YOU ARE THE FATHER OF

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GETTING THE BIRD!

ALHAMBRA THEATRE
TO-DAY ONLY AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.

THE ONLY THRILLER-DILLER OF THE WEST!

GO TO THE SEA OF GRASS

SPENCER TRACY • KATHARINE HEPBURN

CHARLIE RUGGLES • ALLEN JENKINS • BOB WILLS • HIS TEXAS PLAYBOYS

OPENS TO-MORROW! "SEA OF GRASS" SPENCER TRACY • KATHARINE HEPBURN

CENTRAL THEATRE
SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30 5.15 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

THE ONLY GOOD NAZI IS A DEAD NAZI... good and dead!

The BOY from STALINGRAD

with ROSEY SAMARICH • CONRAD BINTON • MARY LOU HARRINGTON • SCOTTY MCCREY • STEVEN HOLLER

Screen Play by Ferdinand Zacher Produced by COLBERT CLARK • Directed by SIDNEY SALKOW • A COLUMBIA PICTURE

ORIENTAL
Final Showings Today 2.30-5.15-7.20-9.20 P.M.
ONE OF THE SCREEN FAVORITES IS BACK TO THE SCREEN!

THE PRISONER OF ZENDA

MADELEINE CARROLL • DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, Jr.

Produced by DAVID O. SELZNICK

COMMENCING TO-MORROW "SONG OF THE SOUTH"

Lee Theatre

ADVANCE BOOKING OFFICE ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL
Booking Hours: 11.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Daily

HELD OVER!! THE 17th DAY!
'The TEARS of YANGTZE'
DIALOGUE IN MANDARIN
FIRST PART SECOND PART
"EIGHT WAR-TORN YEARS" "THE DAWN"
DAILY AT 2.30 & 7.15 P.M. DAILY AT 5.00 AND 9.30 P.M.

SHOWING **Cathay** At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.
TO-DAY

A CORP. OF COMICS! A BATTALION OF BEAUTIES! THE GUNS ARE ROARING—BUT WITH LAUGHTER!

'You're in the Army Now'

JIMMY DURANTE • PHIL SILVERS • JANE WYMAN • MARY BUCKLE

with Mollie Malneck & His Orchestra • Directed by LEWIS SEILER

NEXT CHANGE Robert PAIGE • Anne GWYNNE in The Boldest Bandits in a Lawless Land! "FRONTIER BADMAN"



NEXT FLIGHT:

HONG KONG TO MANILA Friday, 30th January
HONG KONG TO BANGKOK Friday, 30th January

For Passage and Freight apply to:—

SOUTH EAST ASIA TRADING CO. (SIAM) Ltd.
69, Connaught Road West. Tel. 24292.

or **FAR EAST AVIATION CO. LTD.**

Top Floor, National City Bank of N.Y. Bldg. Tel. 2726.

(Entrance on Duddell Street). Kowloon Tel: 67185



HONGKONG/SAIGON

WEEKLY AIR SERVICE

ARRIVALS EVERY FRIDAY 2.00 P.M.

DEPARTURES EVERY SATURDAY 6.30 A.M.

DIRECT CONNECTIONS FOR CAIRO, PARIS, LONDON,
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BIRTH

FORSGAT—At Kowloon Hospital, on the 28th January to Betty, wife of H. M. G. Forsgate, a son, (Brian Stuart).

THE MALTBY DESPATCHES

On first reading, it might be said of General Maltby's Despatches on the Fall of Hong Kong that they appear to have been designed to be as non-controversial as possible. The obvious is there—the hopelessness of continuing the Battle in the situation as it existed during the early afternoon of December 25, 1941: the great gallantry of numerous units under difficult conditions; the heavy handicaps which faced a garrison inadequately equipped for the task it was called upon to perform; the superior training of the Japanese forces in action and efficiency in Intelligence; the breaking strain of fighting day and night, with out relief, and without properly maintained supplies.

All this is there, and more, too. But the Despatches do not purport to tell the whole story—or we should trust they do not—and a good deal of what is lacking is not wholly unimportant. Too many of the pertinent questions which arose in analysts' minds, during and after the battle, remain without an answer.

As a straightforward outline of the sequence of events as seen from Fortress HQ, based upon reports from various quarters, the Despatches are unexceptionable, though far less is told than War Crimes Trials have revealed of the magnificent show of the Canadians at Wongneichang Gap, and beyond a tribute in appreciation in the preliminary summary, there is singularly little mention of the ground work of the H.K.V.D.C., of the noteworthy efficiency of the Middlesex machine-gunners, while to epic events in the vital sector round Stanley Peninsula, and to the grim struggle which marked the retreat to the Fort, there is no reference at all.

It is noteworthy, too, that while General Maltby submits as unfortunate, the fact that troops were disposed in defence sectors over which they had had no prior training, he offers no explanation of the reasons for extensive re-dispositions on Dec. 5 which contributed largely to that state of affairs. There appears also to be a tendency to apportion too much weight factors such as civilian morale in the early stages of the operations, which our own observations estimated at a far higher level than the Despatches admit.

General Maltby, however, does well, perhaps, to avoid controversy. As he says in his opening paragraphs, the Defence of Hong Kong was conducted not without reference to a higher strategy: it was a gamble and a gamble that failed. There can be little point now in looking for faults, failings or scapegoats.

Kai Tak Property

The protests against the Government Bill authorising monetary compensation to the owners of land expropriated by the Japanese to carry out extensions to Kai Tak aerodrome, come from the owners themselves, a fact which will strike an odd note among disinterested parties who, in some instances, regard them as fortunate to be offered anything at all.

The suggestion that they are getting 'reparations' which should come from the Japanese, however, takes a flimsily superficial view. The paramount consideration is that the land of which they were deprived is now within the enjoyment of the Government, and, in principle, the justice of the claim to compensation cannot well be resisted.

Nor can there be much quarrel with the announcement of a

Crime is increasing. Appalling, you say. But would you be prepared to swear that you are not a criminal yourself? I would be a little chary of it personally, although I assure you that my conscience is as clear as yours is. We are so tied up with restrictions nowadays that it is easy to break the law without realising it.

Only last month Lord Justice Scott in the Court of Appeal protested publicly at the way John Citizen is sometimes left in complete ignorance of secret laws affecting his property.

This ignorance may be due to the law actually never being published, or it may be just due to the vast and ever-increasing number of Orders, Regulations, and Rules which even lawyers have the very greatest difficulty in keeping track of.

Onion Size

It is now frequently impossible, by the light of nature alone, even to suspect that a particular act may be criminal.

You will commit a crime if you do repairs involving more than £2 worth of materials on your own house in any one month, even if you do them yourself. A Conservative prayer for annulment of this Order was made in the House of Commons, but without success. Is it still necessary for long delay before a window broken by a workman during building operations can be replaced? Today such an accident necessitates the granting of a special licence which may take anything from three to 25 weeks.

Need people still be threatened with gaol for selling green onions smaller than 1½ in., which direct "care" to be measured by taking the circumference at right angles to the axis?

Many such irksome restrictions, it is true, were imposed by the Coalition Government during the war. They were necessary then when the nation was in peril, and a lot of them are still necessary, for we are not out of the wood yet.

But we do not want to lose sight of the wood for the trees. Ought we not to cut down a few trees here and there; do a bit of judicious thinning out? Instead of that, we see more saplings than ever being planted with all the accompanying tangle of undergrowth.

Frustration

You would probably be surprised to hear that in the eight months from August 1945 to March 1946 the number of persons found guilty of offences under the Defence (General) Regulations and Orders made thereunder was 17,110.

If the persons who were acquitted were added in the total figure of prosecutions under

100 Years Ago

(From the files of the "China Mail")

The "Hastings" left this Harbour yesterday for Singapore; we understand she is to be employed in the contemplated mission of High Brother to Siam, and will convey his Highness and suite thither shortly after reaching the Straits.

In contemplating the departure of this fine vessel from her late anchorage, which she has occupied these eight months, we see much reason for congratulation to her officers and crew for the high state of order and regularity which has characterised the vessel during this and her former stay in China.

We have also further reason for congratulation on the score of the healthiness of this station, as illustrated in the fact that of a crew of 800 men, not one has been lost by accident or sickness during the two years which the ship has been in commission—a fact highly creditable to Scott, her Medical officer, and those in charge with him of her sanitary arrangements.

Last night, an Indian constable observed a Chinaman lurking on the road in the rear of Tai-ping-shan, when after some manoeuvring he succeeded in seizing the suspicious one by the tail and imagined he had him safe. In an instant the man was off, leaving a false trail in the astonished constable's hand as a memento of their meeting.

preference for alternative sites as opposed to cash payments, except insofar as a suitable area satisfactory to both parties, may prove difficult to find.

There is, however, clearly room for negotiation, and course chosen by Government of postponing the introduction of the Bill until the position has been re-examined is the most appropriate in the circumstances.

ARE YOU A CRIMINAL?

these Regulations and Orders would be even larger. It certainly looks as if crime were on the increase!

But one must not forget that those persons were all convicted for performing acts which prior to the outbreak of war in 1939 would not have been crimes at all. Surely it is worth making an effort to get rid of some of these shackles, which no doubt served their turn during the war, but merely exasperate us in peacetime.

This general feeling of exasperation and frustration engendered by cramping Regulations is such that more and more otherwise honest citizens have come to think nothing of giving bribes in a small way, to get what they are not able to obtain by legal means. Thus restrictions breed crime, for bribing is a crime or at least they lower the moral standards of a nation hitherto outstanding for its sense of fair play.

Are you, perhaps, thinking of turning your house into two flats to help house a friend or relative? Remember to get a licence, because there is a shortage of materials and labour. Well and good. But if the shortage of materials and labour miraculously ended next week, you might think you could go ahead with a sort of your heart. You would be wrong. By Section 12 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, you would be guilty of an offence if you proceeded without permission.

Moreover, it seems that you would be guilty of an offence for turning it into two flats, even if no structural alterations were involved.

Moral: Don't have bright ideas: the State will do that for you.

Are you a young man with an opportunity of being employed by a particular firm? Well, you must not do it. You must seek employment through a labour exchange. Otherwise both you and your employer will be guilty of criminal offence. Moral: It will come right when you are fifty-one.

Hope For Four-Power Agreement

London, Jan. 28.

The New Soviet proposals caused British officials tonight to voice a cautious hope for a four-power agreement on an Austrian peace treaty.

Authoritative British informants said the Big Four deputies will meet here "within a few days" for discussion of the Soviet terms on Austrian reparations.

The chief feature of the Soviet proposal is the request for Austria to pay US\$200,000,000 in two years in full settlement for Soviet claims to former German assets.

The question of defining German assets in Austria has been the chief stumbling block to agreement on the treaty.

The "lump settlement" plan was apparently a variation of a French compromise suggestion which would have given Russia US\$100,000,000 payment against its claim on Austria and certain property rights.

The French compromise, advanced prior to last November's meeting of the Foreign Ministers in London, was not accepted by the Russians.

A British Foreign Office spokesman would not comment in detail upon the Russian plan but said, "There is something positive and concrete to talk about."—Associated Press.

BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By SHEPARD BARCLAY

"THE AUTHORITY ON AUTHORITIES"

LOW CARDS TELL LIES

Playing your low cards in an unconventional order can fool everybody at the table, your own partner included if you are on the defence.

But there are cases in which misleading him is unlikely to damage the side, whereas deceiving the declarer can be worth a trick or more to you. That is especially so in the way that you play your cards in the trump suit, to make him think you hold an honor which is not in your hand, or that you do not hold one which is in it.

S. 10 7 4
H. 10 8 4 3
D. K J 8 7
C. 6 3

S. A 9 3
H. K 2
D. Q 4 3 2
C. A 10 8 7

S. K Q J
H. A 7 5
D. A 9 6 5
C. Q 9 2

(Dealer: North. Both sides vulnerable.)
Not: East South West
Pass Pass 1 D Wbl
2 D

As you can well imagine, the bidding varied somewhat at different tables on this duplicate deal. The strength was divided so closely that nobody came near to scoring a game, and in most cases the declarer—no matter who he was or in what contract—got set a trick.

Where South played it in diamonds, in most cases one trick was

The recent attempt to register the "barrack boys" has resulted in a sudden exodus from London to the smaller towns in the Home Counties as a result of the direction that only those in towns of a population of 20,000 or over need register.

A Mystery

If you go into a restaurant and order soup, meat, and sweet, you cannot have even a tiny piece of bread with your soup, for if you do it is a fourth course, and it will then be an offence to serve you with a sweet.

Even assuming that bread rationing is necessary, is the supply so short that it will not run down a small piece by the side of your plate? This is the sort of restriction that saves but a trifle and adds one more irritation to a host of others. And disobedience to it may, of course, mean a visit to the police court. If I were minded to collect kitchen waste from my next-door neighbour to feed my rabbits, and if I happened to have more than four breeding does, I should commit an offence if I sailed forth with my bucket without having a licence. There may be some mystery about kitchen waste and breeding does which makes this Regulation necessary, but so far it escapes me.

This kind of Regulation was imposed during the war, when by common consent we allowed the Government's administrators to hold us on a tight rein. We did not inquire very critically into the restrictions they thought necessary in time of emergency.

But after 2½ years of peace we feel entitled to be given our head a little. We are entitled to ask wherein the five-ounce man differs from the four-ounce man.

Time To Halt

Examples like these could be multiplied many times. There are hundreds of obscure offences which do not appear in any comprehensive treatise on Criminal Law: they grow like mushrooms in the night, bobbing up all around us, not created for the justice but by Parliament itself, but by Ministers or subordinate authorities acting under numerous delegated powers.

It is time to call a halt to this process, or at any rate to give John Citizen a clearer idea of where he stands.

We Conservatives do not make any foolish pretence that we could sweep away all controls and restrictions forthwith but we do say: "Give us the pruning hook and well make a start on the job."

Japs Look For Help

TOKYO, JAN. 29.

THE CABINET TODAY DISCUSSED PLANS TO INVITE FOREIGN CAPITAL INTO JAPAN TO AID THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC REHABILITATION.

Although the plans were not divulged, it was understood the Ministers discussed the priority of industries to receive such aid and also the priority of raw materials to be imported into Japan.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Hiti shi Ashida told a Diet session that, in his opinion, the reparations to be imposed on Japan would not be so severe as to cripple Japan.—United Press.

CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



"It doesn't make sense! We pay three times as much to get a kitchen that cuts in half the work of a maid we're paying five times what she's worth!"

MUKDEN--BLEAK CITY UNDER SIEGE

By Spencer Moosa

The lives of the great bulk of Mukden's 1,500,000 inhabitants are about as bleak as the Manchurian winter—and that's bleak enough.

There is no electric light for them, as only places considered "essential," such as military establishments, police stations, the bigger hotels and the homes and offices of foreign consular personnel, are supplied with current.

Round-the-clock martial law and a 12-hour daily curfew, starting at 6 p.m., are among other things which help to make life unhappy.

At about 5 p.m., or even earlier, most of the restaurants close and there is nowhere to go but home—generally a home illuminated only by candles or kerosene lamps and cold and cheerless because not many persons can afford coal for heating.

Many shops in Mukden put up their shutters as early as 3 p.m. as there is little business. Numerous others are permanently shuttered because the owners have either failed to keep them operating or have gone elsewhere.

Mukden is prepared for street fighting if a battle develops within the city itself. Besides brick and concrete pill-boxes, there are redoubts shaped of snow and frozen into a solid mass by the application of buckets of water.

Guards Everywhere

There are guards everywhere. Barbed wire protects military establishments, police stations, radio communication offices, supply depots and many other buildings. Most of the factories bear evidence of the Russian stripping of machinery and the subsequent looting by Chinese who removed woodwork and window panes and, in numerous instances, even roof tiles.

Evidence of the poverty of the inhabitants is not hard to find. Some examples are particularly pathetic—a family which has sunk so low in fortune that all the furniture in its home has been moved into the sidewalk for sale.

The occasional appearance of Communist prisoners, some in

uniform, others in plain clothes, marching under guard to a prisoners of war camp occasions but scant interest. A Chinese reporter, asked for an explanation of this lack of curiosity, remarked bitterly, "They are Chinese," and in those three words expressed more tellingly the unpopularity of the civil war than a volume could have done.

"Good Old Days"

Some of the inhabitants, if they know their remarks will not be repeated in any quarters where it might do them harm, speak nostalgically of the good old days under the Japanese.

Most of the buildings formerly owned by the Japanese have been put to official use. The South Manchuria Railway building serves as the headquarters for the Nationalist forces in Manchuria. It is a good building and well steam-heated.

The former Yamato Hotel has been renamed the Railway Hotel. Though the days of its glory are gone, it is still a pleasant surprise to the visitor for there is steam heat and electric light. Hot water is available in the basin-full whenever wanted, and every Saturday evening the boys go around to inform guests that hot water may be had out of the tap for a bath.

One relic of the Japanese ownership of the hotel are the rules and regulations that "gambling, opium-smoking, keeping prostitutes and any other disgraceful deeds or unlawful actions are prohibited in this hotel."

"Malodorous goods," says another regulation, "may be handed to the hotel office and must not be kept in the room."

But the punch is reserved for the last regulation, No. 12, which says:

"Cases of contagious disease or mental derangement, chronic alcoholism, or nervous depression are not encouraged in this hotel."

A foreign visitor who read this turned to his companion and remarked: "They are not encouraged anywhere in Mukden—only stimulated."—Associated Press.

China Aid Plan Out Next Month?

Washington, Jan. 28.

Informed sources today said that President Truman is expected to send a China aid programme to Congress within the first fortnight of February.

The State Department today sent the plan to the Budget Bureau and the President's National Advisory Council for preparing preliminary legislation.

They decline to reveal the total amount of the programme, but indicated that it would be somewhat over the US\$300,000,000 estimate Mr. George Marshall made two months ago when pressed by Congress for an assessment to its needs.

Informed quarters pointed out that the Budget Bureau should be able to handle the China plan quickly since it involved no particularly intricate calculations of finance.—United Press.

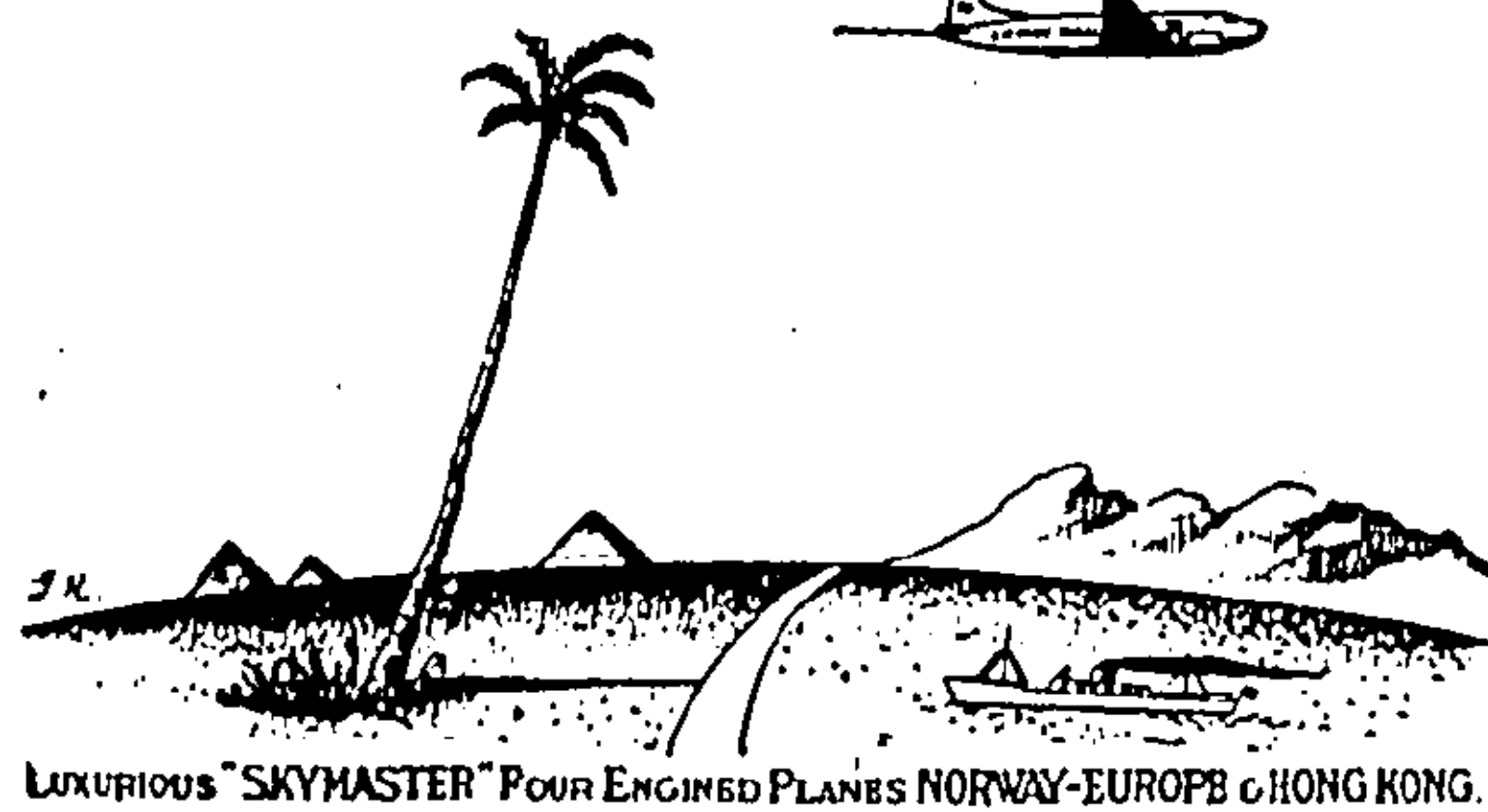
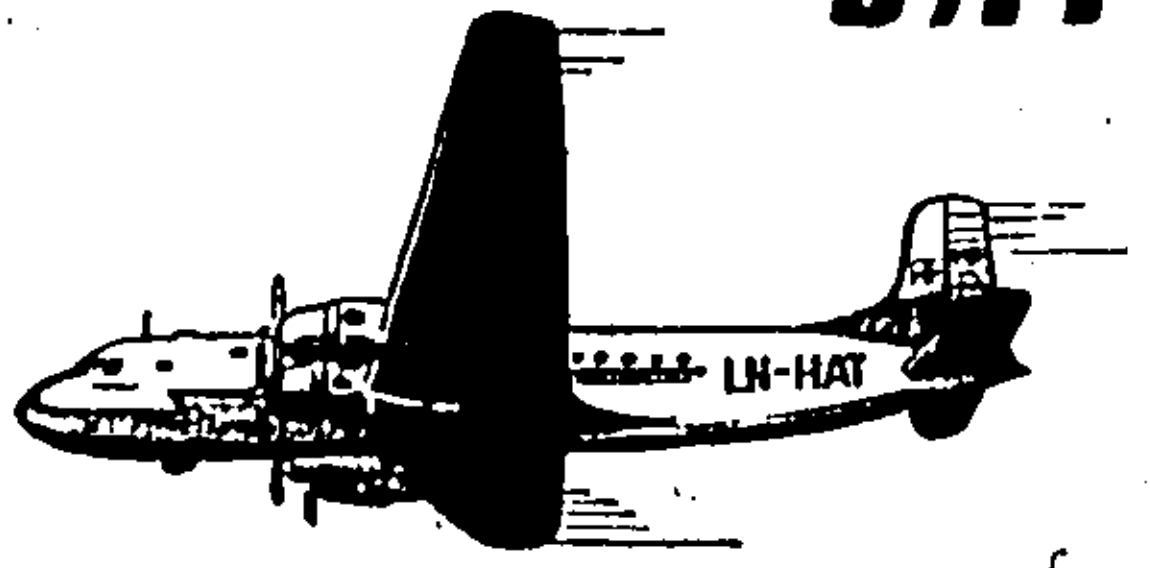
Amnesty Offer

Rangoon, Jan. 29.

The Burmese Government has offered amnesty to Arakanese guerrillas who surrender by Saturday.

The official announcement today of the amnesty disclosed intensified efforts to quell the resistance movement in the Arakan area, on the West Coast of Burma. The conflict centres around the separatist issues.—Associated Press.

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AMNESTY IN PHILIPPINES

President Roxas Frees Collaborators

'Atmosphere Has Been Cleared'

Manila, Jan. 29.
President Roxas today signed a proclamation which, he said, would grant amnesty to 20 to 30 percent of some 5,000 Filipinos accused of treason, subject to concurrence by the Philippine Congress.

"The question of collaboration has divided the people of the Philippines since the liberation," he told a special press conference.

"It appears that the overwhelming sentiment of the people of this Republic now is in favour of resolving the question as speedily as possible by a grant of amnesty."

The proclamation does not extend to those accused of espionage or criminal acts during the Japanese occupation, Roxas said. It would be submitted to Congress, probably tomorrow, and that swift action was expected in each House. About seven amnesty measures are pending in both chambers.

'Understanding'

Roxas, a member of the Council of State under puppet President Jose P. Laurel, recalled that he was accused as a collaborator during his campaign for the Presidency after the liberation.

"In order to avoid that becoming an issue, I stated it was a judicial matter for the courts to decide," he said. "I waited a year and a half. They struggled and no decision was reached up to now. But the atmosphere has cleared and the people have reached a better understanding."

Court Ruling

When notified of Roxas' amnesty action, Laurel—against whom treason charges are pending and who is mentioned prominently as a probable Presidential candidate—commented bluntly:

"I am not interested. I do not feel that I take things as they come." Others who would be cleared of collaboration charges if Congress approves, include Camilo Osias, recently elected to the Senate, and Teodoro Sison, puppet Minister of Interior, whose case is pending before the Supreme Court.

The court has held, in another case, that holding a responsible position under the Japanese puppet Government did not of itself constitute treason.—Associated Press.

Empire Tariff Motion

London, Jan. 28.
The Conservative Opposition in the House of Commons will move an amendment regretting the limitation of imperial preferences when a Government motion, approving the trade and tariff agreements signed at Geneva, is debated on Thursday.

The amendment, while welcoming practicable measures for increasing the volume of international trade, regrets that the Government should have placed a limit on imperial preferences and urges it not to subscribe prematurely to the principle of non-discrimination.

It calls on the Government to follow a realistic policy on the lines of the Marshall Plan and to develop trade both within the Empire and with countries of Western Europe and their overseas territories as the first step towards an expansion of international trade.—Reuter.

'Spies' To Die

Belgrade, Jan. 28.
The Albanian Supreme Military Court in Tirana, the Albanian capital, today sentenced to death seven members of organisations described as consisting of "spies, traitors and agents of Anglo-American Imperialism," the Tanjug Yugoslav News Agency, reported today.

Four ex-deputies were among those sentenced to death. The aim of the organisations was said to be the overthrow of the regime in Albania and the restoration of King Zog.—Reuter.

RAIL STRIKE POSTPONED

Washington, Jan. 28.
Strike action by 125,000 American railwaymen has been postponed from February 1 to March 1, a spokesman of the Union's joint committee said today, after President Truman set up an emergency fact-finding board to investigate the dispute.

The board appointed by the President has 30 days in which to find out whether the strike threatened by the workers of three railway unions, can be averted.—Reuter.

U.S. CRITICAL OF AMNESTY

Washington, Jan. 29.
Former Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes took a critical view of President Roxas' action concerning a proposed grant of amnesty to a group of Filipinos accused of treason during the Japanese occupation.

Ickes told a reporter that "I have always felt that as a collaborator with the Japanese when the latter occupied the Philippines, Roxas was disqualified before he became President."

"However, if this latest action of his is to have the effect of pardoning himself, then certainly he could not with good grace refrain from pardoning his fellow collaborators." — Associated Press.

Lull In Palestine

JERUSALEM, JAN. 29.
PALESTINE WAS QUIET TODAY FOLLOWING A NIGHT OF STRIFE WHICH CLAIMED NINE LIVES.

Five Arabs, two British soldiers and two Jews were killed in scattered violence. This raised to 694 the unofficial toll since the United Nations voted to partition the Holy Land.

In Cairo, Ahmed Hussein leader of the Young Egyptian Party, said the Egyptian Government had supplied several thousand rifles to Palestine Arabs. He said the guns were given to Haj Amin el Hussein, exiled Mufti of Jerusalem.

In Damascus, Syria, informants said Palestine Arabs were being equipped with munitions obtained from Czechoslovakia in a US\$2,850,000 deal. In Prague, this was denied by a Foreign Ministry spokesman.—Associated Press.

ADMIRAL DEAD

Baltimore, Jan. 28.
Retired Rear Admiral Yates Stirling Jr., who stirred up many a public controversy during and after his 48 years in the Navy, died in his sleep today of a heart ailment. He would have been 76 in April.

Stirling served in the Philippines during the insurrection there and was one time commander of the Yangtze patrol in China.—Associated Press.

Expert Didn't Know He Had Cancer

Omaha, Jan. 29.
Dr. Albert M. Harris, 35, who developed a simple, inexpensive test for discovering cancer, died from that disease today without knowing that his own body had given a positive reaction to the test.

The test was announced last week in the South Dakota Journal of Medicine and Pharmacy.

At the time of the announcement, Dr. Harris was suffering from a malignant brain tumour.

His friend, Dr. J.P. Tollman of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, said Dr. Harris had been ill of a fast acting cancer since the beginning of the year. A month ago, Dr. Harris used the test on himself but the result was negative.

However, when he became ill, he was admitted to Sioux Valley Hospital at Sioux Falls, where he practised, and the test was made again. This time, the test was positive, indicating the possibility of cancer.

Associates at Sioux Valley Hospital said that Dr. Harris never inquired about the outcome of the test and died without knowing that it had proven successful in his own body.—United Press.

AIR GENERALS ON TOUR

Rangoon, Jan. 28.
Brigadier General Ivan Farman and Robert Nowland, of the United States Army Air Transport Command, arrived here today by air on what they called a "routine flight" through the Far East.

They will fly to Bangkok tomorrow.—Reuter.



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Home Minister of the Government of India, walks ahead as 79-year-old Mahatma Gandhi, leaning on the shoulders of two grand-daughters of one of his brothers, moves off to his New Delhi bed for his successful fast for communal peace in the country. (Associated Press Photo).

Strike Threat In Anglo-U.S. Zone

Berlin, Jan. 28.
The American and British Zones of Germany were confronted tonight by strike threats from an estimated 4,190,000 German workers, potentially the most serious labour trouble since the occupation began.

Some 3,000,000 Germans in the Ruhr—heart of industrial Europe—have threatened to strike on Feb. 2. Their leaders met on Saturday to decide whether to carry out the strike. The reason for all the threatened strikes is the same—lack of food.

The strike of about 1,000,000 men is tentatively scheduled for Friday night in the American Zone State of Wurtemberg-Baden. German labour leaders called a general strike of 190,000 engineering, transport and textile workers for Feb. 3 in Hanover in protest against the cut in the fat and bread ration in the Niedersachen district.

Soviet Warning

Meanwhile, the official Soviet Army newspaper, Tagliche Rundschau, in Berlin announced: "The

New Soviet Ministry

Moscow, Jan. 28.
The Soviet Union has established a Foreign Affairs Ministry headed by V. M. Molotov.

This was announced today in a declaration by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

All relations between foreigners and Soviet institutions must be made through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

This applies to foreigners both inside and outside the Soviet Union. The only exceptions for foreigners inside Russia apply to those institutions taking care of everyday needs such as the posts and telegraph, railways, restaurants, stores and housing.

Any communications to a Soviet official institution from a foreign source must be referred to Molotov's Ministry. Any written communications in reply will be issued by his Ministry.—Associated Press.

A DENIAL

Belgrade, Jan. 28.
Both Yugoslav Government quarters and American Embassy officials today denied reports from the United States that a Mrs. Emma Debeljak, described as an American citizen, had been sentenced to death.

She asked for an exit visa a year ago and since then the American Embassy had been informed that she was under arrest.—Reuter.

Bangkok, Jan. 28.
The Chinese Embassy has cabled Nanking for instructions regarding the Siamese Government's prohibition of the flying of the Chinese flag daily in Chinese schools in Siam.—Reuter.

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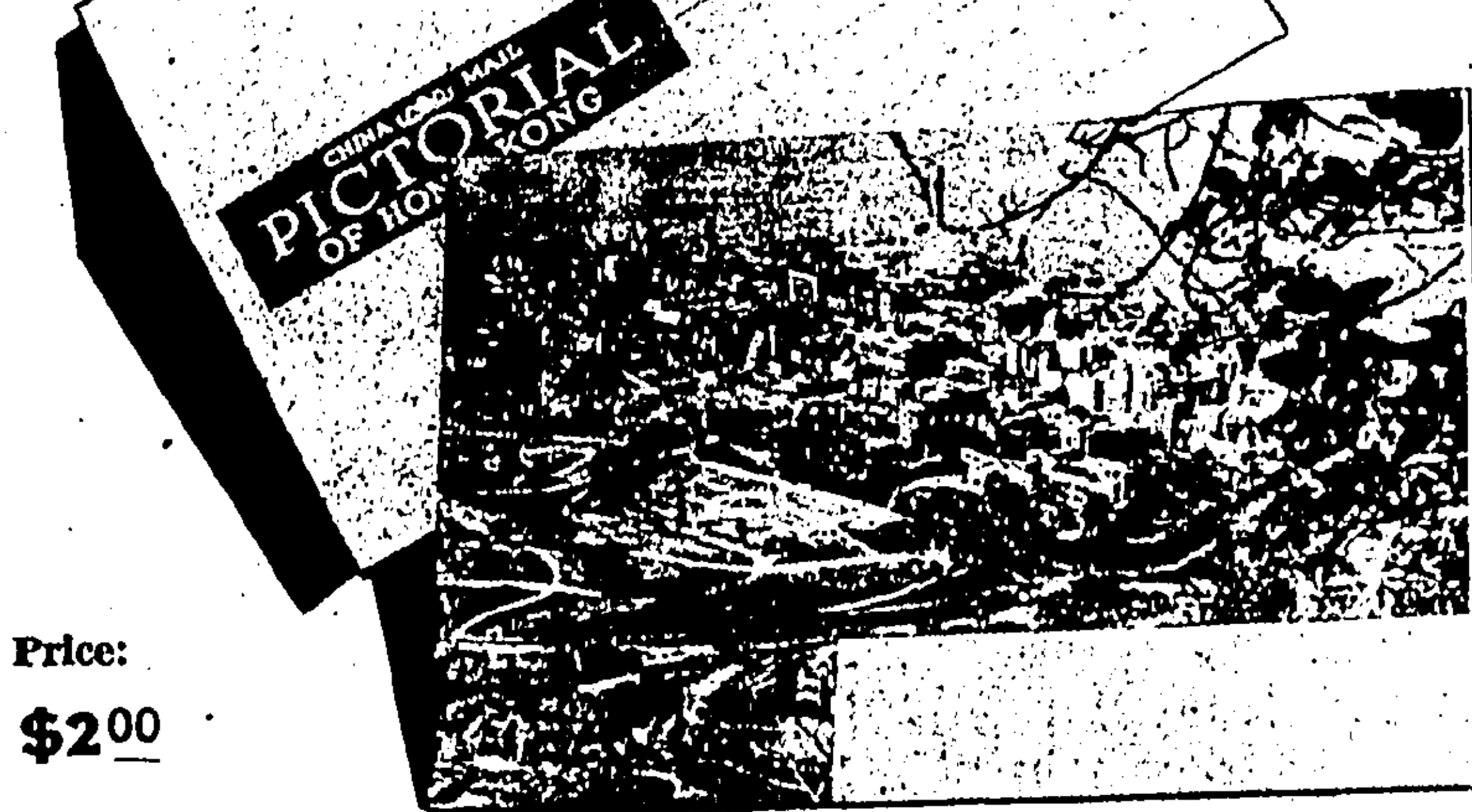
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CRISIS IN MIDDLE EAST? Arab Protests Against New Treaties Premier Of Iraq In Flight

London, Jan. 29.
Worried Government officials said they feared a possible crisis in British relations with Middle Eastern states.
The officials said the bloody riots on Tuesday in Baghdad showed the British had seriously miscalculated popular Arab opinion. The riots were in protest against the British-Iraqi friendship and mutual aid treaty.

Some quarters still held hope, however, that a new Iraqi Government, capable of persuading the people to accept the treaty, could be formed.
Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin had hoped the British-Iraqi treaty would pattern a system of alliances to preserve British influence in the Arab world.

Transportation today dominated the view of the office. Anglo-Iraqi relations of public instead of merely a matter of the military annex.
The treaty was the original point of the rifts now and a way of the Iraqi office.
The Transportation delegation led by the Prime Minister, Ismail Pasha, had been understood to have signed a new draft treaty.

Unexpected

After today's meeting it was expected that there would be a two-day break in the discussions.

Britain will now first have to decide whether to agree to undertake a general revision, and the answer may come from the Transportation delegation. It is likely to make the negotiations a long drawn out affair.

Mr. Bevin may hesitate to reject the Transportation request outright at a moment when he wishes to launch a new treaty system linking Britain with the Arab world.

Informed quarters here believe that the arrival of the annex which gives Britain the right to station troops anywhere in Transjordan by the agreement with the Government, is considered by the Arabs as unduly sweeping in its terms.

Salih Bey Flees

They claim this clause influenced the decision against admitting the newly constituted sovereign nation to the United Nations Organisation.

Meanwhile, former Premier Salih Bey al Jabur was reliably reported today to have fled Baghdad.

In the Iraqi capital some 30,000 persons marched through the streets carrying banners demanding his head.

Salih Bey's determination to fight for ratification of the British-Iraqi treaty of mutual defence and friendship, in the face of violent popular opposition led to the downfall of his Cabinet on Tuesday.

A secret police informant said he had fled to a hill 60 miles south of Baghdad amid the ruins of Babylon to seek protection of the tribes of his father-in-law.

The former Premier was fired upon five times while leaving his home on Tuesday night by automobile, but escaped injury, the informant added.

Political Funeral

A solemn funeral procession was held for the victims of the rioting on Tuesday which preceded the funeral of Salih Bey's resignation. (Hospital estimates said 30 were killed.)

The coffins were covered with Iraqi flags, inscribed with letters written in the hand of the victims.

In the line of march were political and religious leaders, former Cabinet Ministers, members of Parliament and other notables.

Women, many in tears, marched in the centre of the line. They waved black handkerchiefs and beat their chests. Men in front of the column carried shields, knives and guns.

Associated Press and Reuter.

Russia Claiming On Austria

Vienna, Jan. 28.
Russian claims on German assets in Austria, though now substantially reduced, demand oil rights estimated to be worth \$135,000,000; shipping estimated at about \$17,000,000 and a lump sum of \$200,000,000 for the remainder of German assets, well-informed sources in Vienna said today.

Strike Ban In Shanghai

Shanghai, Jan. 29.
Mayor K. C. Wu and the garrison commander, Lieutenant-General Hsuan Ti-wu, made clear at a joint Chinese press conference here yesterday that although the new constitution has come into existence, various kinds of labour and student strikes, demonstrations and group petitions, are still prohibited.

General Hsuan said that no illegal activities on the part of the public would be permitted and emphasised that labour and student strikes as well as demonstrations which were outlawed before the promulgation of the constitution were still banned.

Mayor Wu said the authorities would not tolerate activities which disturb law and order in Shanghai.—Reuter.

LOANS TO INDUSTRY

Shanghai, Jan. 29.
Chinese industrial enterprises seeking loans from foreign countries for the purchase of machinery, equipment and raw materials, with proper justification may apply to the Government to act as guarantor on their behalf.

This important provision is implied in a current set of regulations promulgated by the National Government, which stipulate, among other things, the uses to which a loan, guaranteed by the Government, is to be used.

Priority is to be given to industrial enterprises desiring to acquire raw materials and machinery, equipment for the manufacture of export articles, while next in order of preference are importers of such machinery as are essential for the manufacture of industrial tools.—Reuter.

TAIWAN CHECK

Taipei, Jan. 29.
Official authorities today announced that travellers entering and leaving Taiwan must register with the Garrison Commander's Headquarters.
It was believed that the measures are designed to check the influx of Chinese Communist elements, who were alleged to be organising a major demonstration on Feb. 20—first anniversary of major clashes between the Government and Taiwanese.—United Press.

MYSTERY VOYAGE

Stockholm, Jan. 29.
The Swedish sailing vessel Falken, which recently disappeared mysteriously in the Baltic Sea, left today for Argentina with 19 men aboard. The vessel had been stationed at Helsingborg.
A Swedish customs boat will escort the Falken until it reaches international waters in the North Sea.—United Press.

32 Dead In Crash

FRESNO, CALIF., JAN. 28.
A CHARTERED IMMIGRATION SERVICE PLANE CRASHED AND BURNED NEAR HERE TODAY KILLING 28 MEXICAN DEPORTES, A CREW OF THREE AND AN IMMIGRATION GUARD.

Nineteen bodies had been recovered and those remaining in the plane were jammed into the front of the fuselage and mangled beyond recognition.

The Immigration Service said the Mexicans were being flown to the Mexican border for return to their country, after oversteering the limit of work contracts in California. All were agriculture workers.

Road camp workers reported the plane appeared to explode in mid-air and crash at a wing fell off.—Associated Press.

Marshall Says "No Cuts"

WASHINGTON, JAN. 28.
MR. GEORGE MARSHALL, SECRETARY OF STATE, TODAY REITERATED HIS OPPOSITION TO A REDUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTION OF \$6,600 MILLION TO THE FIRST 15 MONTHS OF THE EUROPEAN RECOVERY PROGRAMME.

Commenting on reports that Congressional supporters of the Marshall plan said to make a "compromise" cut in the total to avoid an even more drastic reduction, Mr. Marshall said: "I am not changing the \$6,600 million figure."

He indicated his readiness to compromise, however, on an aspect of the European recovery programme, and accept the proposal put forward by Senator Vandenberg, which would give the State Department no power over the plan's administration, but would allow the Secretary of State to advise and recommend on foreign policy questions.—Reuter.

Red Trade Pact With Poland

London, Jan. 28.
A four-year, \$1,000,000,000 trade pact between Russian and Poland was announced by Moscow Radio early today—a few hours after Marshal Stalin had given a dinner at the Kremlin to a galaxy of Soviet Ministers and visiting Poles.

A joint communique quoted by the radio also announced that both Governments had "reached complete agreement" on questions concerning the present international political situation.

The Polish delegation was headed by the Prime Minister, M. Jozef Cyrankiewicz. It arrived in Moscow on January 15, and in the subsequent talks, the highest Soviet officials took part—Marshal Stalin, M. Molotov, the Foreign Minister, and M. Anastas Mikoyan, the Foreign Trade Minister.

The agreement, signed yesterday, covers mutual goods deliveries.—Reuter.

Purge In Hungary

Bucharest, Jan. 28.
The Chief of Protocol at the Hungarian Foreign Office, M. Dumay, was among 130 officials of the Ministry dismissed in a purge of those considered lukewarm in attitude towards the Hungarian regime.

Among others dismissed was the head of the Czechoslovak Department, M. Valok and the head of the Foreign Office Press Bureau, M. Keszthelyi.

Meanwhile, in London, M. Michael Padev, Counsellor to the Bulgarian Legation in London, has resigned in protest against what he terms the "suppression of freedom" in Bulgaria.

M. Korentich, Secretary of the Yugoslav Embassy in London, has refused to return to Belgrade following an official recall to the Yugoslav Foreign Office.

A spokesman of the Yugoslav Embassy confirmed M. Korentich's refusal but would not comment on it.—Reuter.

Soviet Policy Of Divide And Rule

London, Jan. 28.
Diplomats speculated today that Russia is pursuing a policy of divide and rule in her sphere in Eastern Europe.

This suggestion was founded on Pravda's report of Georgi Dimitrov, Bulgaria's Communist Premier, for declaring that some day eight nations of the Balkan and Danubian areas might form a single federation.

In effect, Pravda declared that what was needed was a strengthening of the Communist Party in each of these nations, not a federation.

In the absence of greater elaboration than was contained in the Pravda statement, diplomats here said they believed Russia wants to keep the Balkan Danubian states divided and dependent upon Moscow.

They pointed out that in forging economic and cultural ties with her neighbours, Russia has pursued direct negotiations with "no nation at a time." In developing "political bonds" her strategy has centred around support of the Communist parties inside the several states, a method which opens direct channels from Moscow for influencing the domestic affairs of each state.—Associated Press.

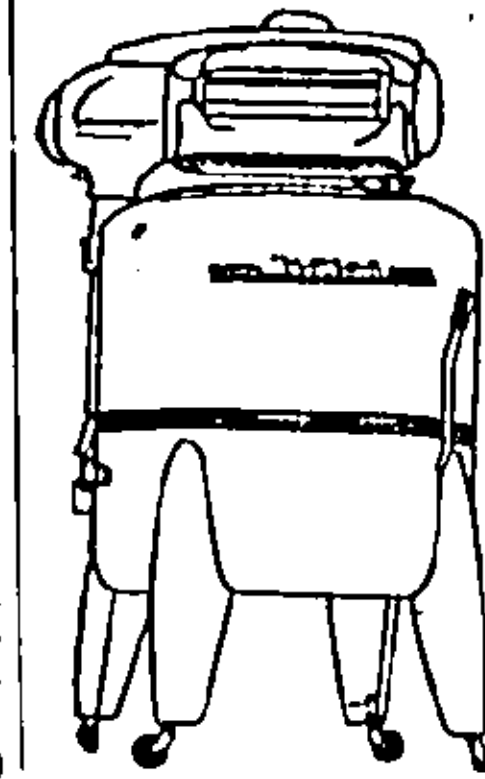
"Malicious Opposition"

Frankfurt, Jan. 28.
Dr. Johannes Semmler, Executive Director of the Bizonal Economics Department here, was today dismissed from his post for displaying "an attitude of malicious opposition towards the occupying powers" when he addressed a German audience at Erlangen on January 4.

The dismissal notice, which was delivered to Dr. Semmler in the presence of the German heads of the Bizonal Economic and Executive Councils, was issued by the Military Governors of the Anglo-American Zones.—Reuter.

Athens, Jan. 28.
The Athens police today searched bookshops and publishing houses confiscating a large number of Communist books, mainly issued in Greece.—Reuter.

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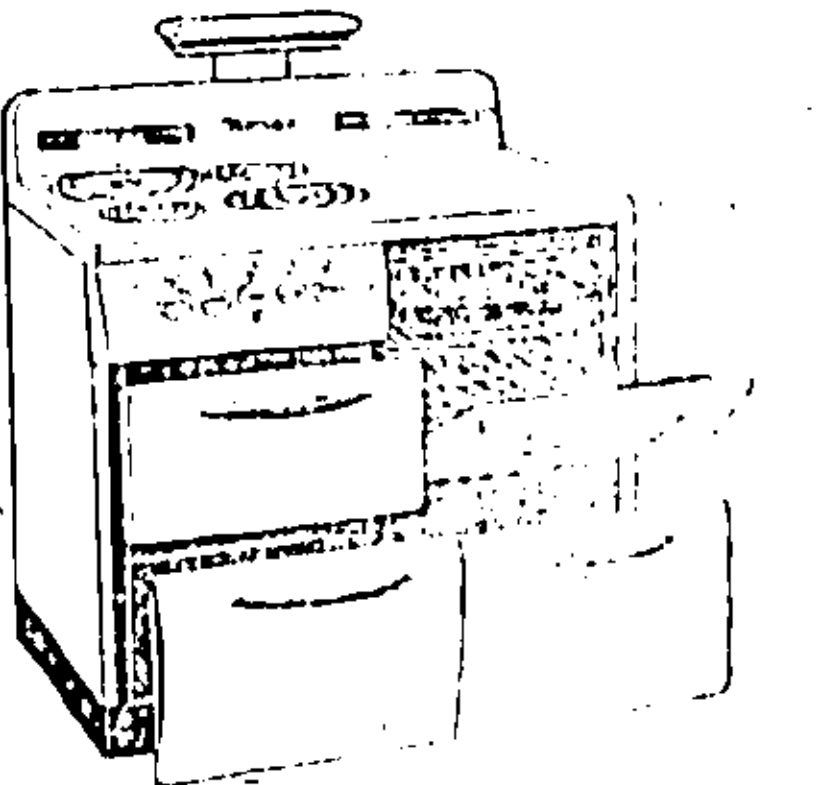
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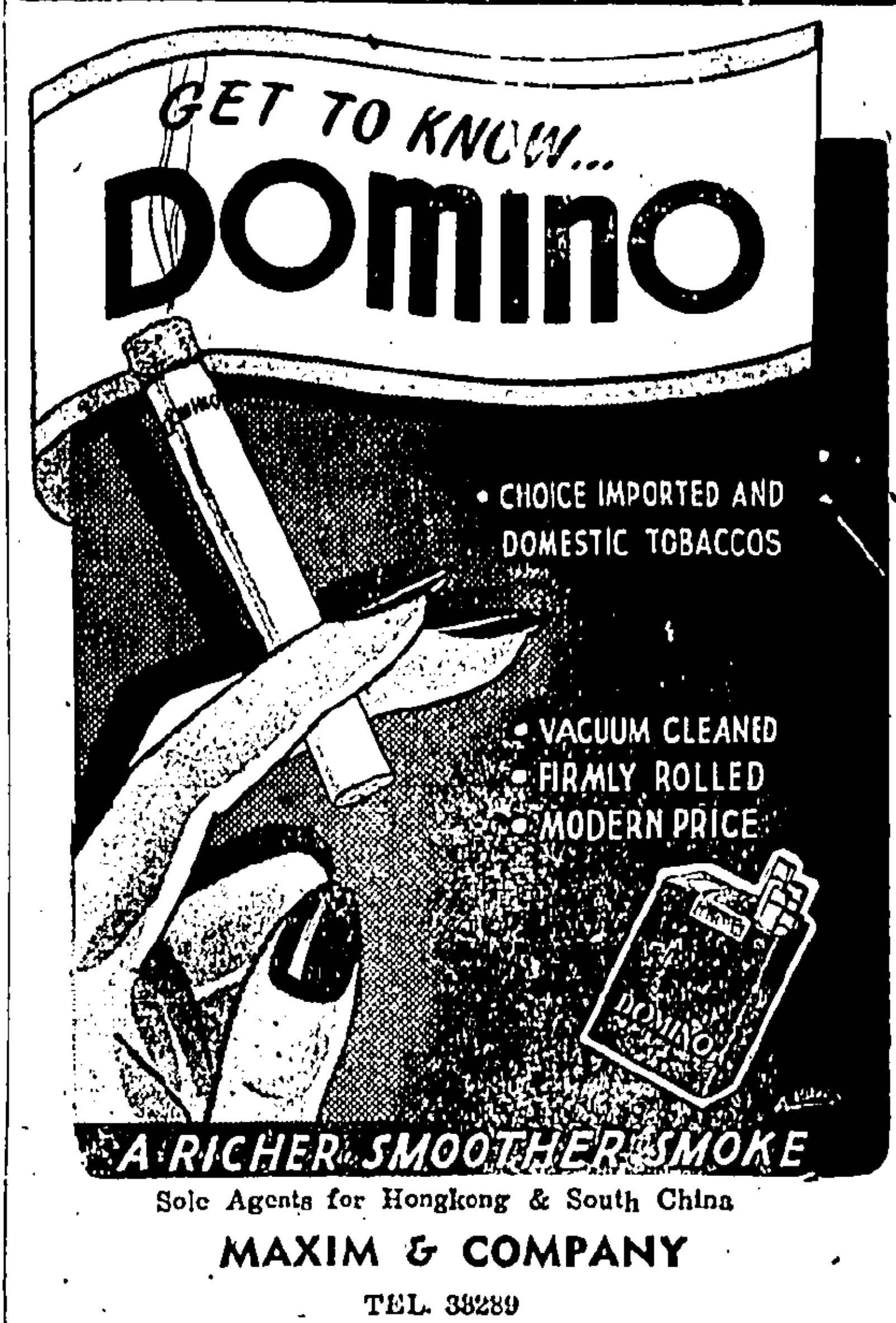


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The Battle For Hong Kong

(Continued from Page 2)

"After destroying the telephone exchanges, etc., he did so, and I regret to say he was killed."

"During the next 30 hours, the supply of shelter here changed hands several times, but in spite of every effort the enemy secured a definite lodgment."

"Part of the enemy attack came on to Stanley Gap. The Royal Artillery, the nearest 24-inch howitzer positions were moved on to assist and, leaving their gun positions, were driven on the fighting, with their small arms."

"Unfortunately, as it was believed that a temporary counter-attack would be made, steps were not taken to remove small arms and light machine guns from the positions, and the enemy, with their small arms, were driven on the fighting, with their small arms."

"The enemy continued to push forward, and the Royal Artillery, the nearest 24-inch howitzer positions were moved on to assist and, leaving their gun positions, were driven on the fighting, with their small arms."

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TO STAY A DOMINION

St. John's, Jan. 28.

Members of the Newfoundland National Convention, who have been debating confederation with Canada as a 10th province of the dominion, today defeated by 29 votes to 19, after an all-night session, a motion to put the question of confederation before the people.

A seven-man delegation, which discussed the terms of a possible union with Canada in Ottawa for six months last year, presented its report to the Assembly in December.—Reuter.

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Peninsular & Oriental

STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

ARRIVALS

SHIP	FROM	DUE
"CASTLEDOR"	Bombay	9th Feb.
"TREVETHOE"	Shanghai	14th Feb.
"CANTON"	U.K. via Straits	16th Feb.
"DILWARA"	U.K.	27th Feb.
"TREVAYLOR"	U.K. via Straits	28th Feb.
"TREVILLIAN"	U.K.	10th Mar.
"TREVAYLOR"	Shanghai	15th March

SAILINGS

SHIP	TO	SAILING
"CASTLEDOR"	Shanghai & Kobe	12th Feb.
"TREVETHOE"	Singapore, Penang, Port Said, Genoa, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam (Amsterdam)	16th Feb.
"CANTON"	U.K. via Straits, Colombo and Bombay	23rd Feb.
"DILWARA"	U.K.	28th Feb.
"TREVAYLOR"	U.K. and Continent via Straits	2nd Mar.
"TREVILLIAN"	Shanghai	13th Mar.
"TREVAYLOR"	Shanghai	14th Mar.

British

India

STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

ARRIVALS

SHIP	FROM	DUE
"OZARDA"	Shanghai	3rd Feb.

SAILINGS

SHIP	TO	SAILING
"OZARDA"	Singapore, Penang, Colombo & Bombay	6th Feb.

APCAR LINE

ARRIVALS

SHIP	FROM	DUE
"SANGOLA"	Calcutta via Straits	10th Mar.

SAILINGS

SHIP	TO	SAILING
"SANGOLA"	Calcutta via Straits, Rangoon & Madras	20th Mar.

Eastern

Australian

STEAMSHIP COMPANY LIMITED

ARRIVALS

SHIPS	from	Due
"NELLORE"	Australia	18th Feb.
"NANKIN"	—	End March

For full particulars apply to

MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & CO.

Telephone Nos. 27721-4.

WATERMAN STEAMSHIP CORPORATION

MOBILE, ALA., U.S.A.

Expected arrivals from U.S. Atlantic Ports:—

S.S. "KYSKA" Due 3rd Feb.
S.S. "FONCE DE LEON" about 23rd February

LOADING FOR NEW YORK via PANAMA

S.S. "KYSKA" About 4th February

For freight and further particulars apply to:—

WALLEM & COMPANY

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Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Bldg.

Tel. 34177-9

Chinese Freight Agents:

HIN FAT & CO., LTD.

Tel: 25553, 25823 & 25483.

BARBER WILHELMSSEN LINE

M.V. "INDIAN NAVIGATOR"

LOADS 6th FEBRUARY 1948

for

NEW YORK via PANAMA

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Yokohama, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Panama, Boston, New York, Philadelphia & Baltimore

For freight and further particulars apply to:—

DODWELL & CO., LTD., Agents

Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Bldg. Telephone 25521.



Snow the Crow had flown
Toldies to safety, prom-
ising to return for Whisk.
But he was too late. Black
Roger was lying on his
back, and a swooping down
Whisk, croaking fiercely
and beating his wings.



Whisk fought bravely, but
Roger was too strong for
him. Step

